



Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for measuring the activation of an effector cell belonging to the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, with monoclonal (MoAb) or polyclonal antibody characterized in that it comprises adding CD16 expressing cells to reaction medium in the presence of the antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 expressing cell.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the effector cell is a CD16 expressing Jurkat cell.

3 – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one cytokine selected from IL-1, IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-9, IL-10, TNF α , TGF β , IP10 and IFN γ is quantified.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the interleukin IL-2 is quantified.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the amount of cytokine produced is a marker for activation or for inhibition of effector cells.

28. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the amount of interleukin IL-2 ~~interleukin IL-2~~ secreted reflects the quality of the antibody bound by the CD16 receptor as regards its antigen-binding integrity (Fc function) and effectiveness (antigenic site).

29. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the amount of interleukin IL-2 secreted is correlated with an ADCC-type activity.

30. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating the effectiveness of a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 expressing effector cells of the immune system into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of an antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 expressing cell.

31. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating the ability of a cell to produce an effective monoclonal antibody, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 expressing effector cells of the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of an antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 expressing cell.

32. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, characterized in that the cells producing antibodies are chosen from CHO, YB2/0, human lymphoblastoid cells, insect cells and murine myeloma cells, or any other expression cell.

33. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating the effectiveness and the integrity of polyclonal antibodies after one or more purification steps, characterized in that it comprises bringing CD16 expressing effector cells of the immune system, which may or may not be transformed, into contact in a reaction medium in the presence of the purified antibody and of the antigen for said antibody, and measuring the amount of at least one cytokine produced by the CD16 expressing cell.

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the antibodies for which an increase of more than 100%, 250%, 500% or 1000% in the amount of IL-2 release by CD16-expressing cells is observed compared with the control in the absence of antibody, or in the presence of a given antibody as negative reference, are selected.

35. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction mixture comprises human immunoglobulins (IVIgs).

36. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises an ADCC assay.